

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1453

To provide for communications training to improve the ability of scientists to interact with policymakers.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2007

Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Mr. GORDON of Tennessee) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology

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## A BILL

To provide for communications training to improve the ability of scientists to interact with policymakers.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Scientific Communica-  
5       tions Act of 2007”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds that—

8               (1) with the increasing presence of science and  
9       technology in public policy issues, a greater national

1 effort needs to be made to train scientists to engage  
2 in the public dialogue;

3 (2) graduate training programs in science and  
4 engineering often lack opportunities for students to  
5 develop communications skills that will enable them  
6 to effectively explain technical topics to nonscientific  
7 audiences;

8 (3) providing training in communications skills  
9 development will ensure that United States-trained  
10 scientists are better prepared to engage in dialogue  
11 on technical topics with policymakers and business  
12 leaders;

13 (4) given the enormous annual investment that  
14 the Federal Government makes in the United States  
15 research enterprise, training scientists to interact  
16 with policymakers will improve accessibility to infor-  
17 mation and ensure that technical expertise is in-  
18 cluded in the public policy dialogue; and

19 (5) providing early career preparation for inter-  
20 action with nonscientists will improve the ability of  
21 research scientists to engage in public/private part-  
22 nerships to facilitate product development based on  
23 United States research discoveries.

1 **SEC. 3. COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING FOR SCIENTISTS.**

2 (a) PROGRAM.—The National Science Foundation  
3 shall establish a program to make grants to institutions  
4 to provide communications training to graduate students  
5 to improve the ability of scientists to interact with policy-  
6 makers. Such program shall be integrated with other Na-  
7 tional Science Foundation programs for the training of  
8 scientists, such as the Integrative Graduate Education and  
9 Research Traineeship (IGERT) program.

10 (b) AWARDS.—Grants shall be awarded under this  
11 section on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis, in a man-  
12 ner so as to ensure relevance to public policymaking.

13 (c) REPORTS.—A recipient of a grant under this sec-  
14 tion shall transmit to the National Science Foundation an  
15 annual report describing the operations of the program  
16 funded by the grant.

17 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
18 are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science  
19 Foundation for carrying out this Act \$10,000,000 for each  
20 of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

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